

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5252

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14276

BEIRUT ALSO PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: PRAVDA REPEATS CALL FOR "IMMEDIATE AND RADICAL"

NORMALIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: MOSCOW 14046

1. SUMMARY. LATEST SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE MIDDLE EAST SAYS THAT TENSIONS ARE WORSENING IN AFTERMATH OF SINAI II, AND, FOLLOWING PODGORNYY'S EXAMPLE (REFTEL), CALLS FOR AN "IMMEDIATE AND RADICAL" POLITICAL SOLUTION. BRIEF DISCUSSION ON SUITABLE FORUM FOR REACHING SUCH A SOLUTION OMMITS MENTION OF GENEVA, BUT REPEATS THAT
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"ALL INTERESTED PARTIES" SHOULD TAKE PART. COMMENTARY

COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN INDIRECT REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S CALL FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING -- I.E., EVEN IN INFORMAL SETTING PLO SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA'S AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW ON OCTOBER 6 ECHOES THE SENSE OF URGENCY IN REACHING A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT RESURRECTED IN THE PODGORNY SPEECH ON OCTOBER 1 (REFTEL) BY REPEATING LATTER'S CALL FOR AN "IMMEDIATE AND RADICAL NORMALIZATION" OF THE SITUATION. AUTHOR OF THE COMMENTARY, OLEG SKALKIN, CONTENDS THAT THE FESTERING CONFLICT IN LEBANON IS ANOTHER SIDE EFFECT OF THE CONTINUING CONFRONTATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. TENSION, HE ARGUES, HAS NOT DECREASED IN THE AREA SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF SINAI II, BUT HAS RATHER INCREASED AS IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT ISRAEL "INTENDS TO USE SEPARATE TREATIES WITH EGYPT TO DELAY A GENERAL NORMALIZATION AND TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY POTENTIAL THROUGH RECEIPT OF THE MOST MODERN AMERICAN WEAPONS, INCLUDING MISSILES." AS A RESULT, HE CONTINUES, THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IS CALLING FORTH "GROWING DISSATISFACTION" AMONG THE ARAB STATES.

3. SKALKIN SAYS THAT A "SPEEDY SOLUTION" MUST BE REACHED, AND THAT THIS CAN BE DONE ONLY THROUGH FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, "PROVISION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLES OF THE REGION TO INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT."

4. SKALKIN DOES NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT GENEVA. HE DOES, HOWEVER, INSIST THAT "ALL INTERESTED PARTIES" PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISIONS LEADING TO A "JUST POLITICAL SOLUTION."

5. CONTINUING ITS EMPHASIS ON, AND DISTORTION OF, U.S. MILITARY AID ASPECTS OF SINAI II, THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND REPORTED THE SFRC'S DECISION TO PUBLISH "SECRET DOCUMENTS" RELATING TO U.S. OBLIGATIONS FLOWING FROM THAT AGREEMENT. REPORTS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTEND THAT "THESE OBLIGATIONS IN PARTICULAR CONCERN WASHINGTON'S AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH THE VERY NEWEST IN WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS PERSHING MISSILES, WHICH CAN CARRY NUCLEAR WARHEADS, AND F-16 FIGHTERS."

6. FINALLY, THE PRESS CONTINUES TO REFLECT SOVIET DISSATISFACTION WITH EGYPT. PRAVDA ON OCTOBER 6 REPORTS BRIEFLY, THOUGH BOTH GRATUITOUSLY AND PROMINENTLY, THAT

THAT NATION HAS BECOME THE MAIN SUPPLIER OF WORKERS
FOR OTHER ARAB STATES. ITS OWN UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM,
THE REPORT CONTINUES, IS "ONE OF THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS
NOW CONFRONTING THE UAR."
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